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STAT

RAND SAFEGUARDS CALLED STRICTER THAN PENTAGON'S

BY GEORGE REASONS

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Daniel Ellsberg who says he leaked the top secret Pentagon papers to the press would have found access to them easier at the Pentagon than at Rand Corp., a former Rand scientist said Friday.

"Rand security is tighter than security at the Pentagon," Dr. Bernard Brodie said. "And you can quote me."

Brodie, who worked at the Santa Monica "think tank" for 15 years and also on national security projects at the Pentagon, accused Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird of unjustly "punishing" Rand by taking security custody of all secret documents away from the agency.

Laird said Rand security was "lax" and could not be tolerated.

His action came in the wake of the scandal surrounding the Pentagon papers. Rand had custody of two sets while Ellsberg was employed there in 1969.

The two Rand sets were recalled after Ellsberg disclosed that it was he who leaked them.

Brodie said Laird's action in clamping a security lid on Rand was "unreasonable and petty, a grandstand play."

"Laird is acting sore, that's all."

He said Laird should look to his own organization for comparison.

"Anyone can go in the Pentagon and walk around without being challenged except in a few sections such as the offices of the Joint Chiefs of Staff," said Brodie, a UCLA political science professor who still serves as consultant to Rand.

"Every Pentagon office has classified material in it," he said. "It's handled carefully but anyone can go in."

Another Agrees

Another former Rand researcher, who declined to be identified, backed Brodie's remarks about comparative security based on 10 years of association both with the Pentagon and Rand.

"I have been in and out of the Pentagon and other defense agencies and found you can walk up to the very office of Laird without anybody checking you out," he said.

"The only one who stops you is his female secretary in the outer office. There are classified documents in every room—and the safes are open," he said.

"The only rule is that someone must be present in the room if the safe is open, but it can be only the female secretary."

He said security at the State Department was about as lax.

"There is an entrance for diplomats who can enter without an appointment and another working entrance at which visitors must have an appointment which is verified by the receptionist."

"She issues a pass which is surrendered to the guard when you enter and then the visitor is on his own to wander around. No one knows whether he works there or not."

At Rand, the controls are much tighter, the two former researchers said. They outlined the system this way:

There are guards on all three doors. The arrival and departure of employees, who must show their pass, is recorded on a tape recorder.

Visitors must have an appointment to be admitted. Their arrival is recorded on a log on which is noted their names, whom they are calling on, whom they represent, whether they are American citizens and whether they will be discussing classified information.

Waits for Escort

After verifying that he has an appointment, the guard issues the visitor a red badge bearing his name and holds him at the entrance until an escort arrives. He can take his briefcase but must leave camera and tape recorder behind.

No outsider without an escort is permitted in the sensitive areas where clas-

sified documents are being used. He goes literally nowhere alone.

If a visitor goes to the restroom, his escort stands outside the door.

Even new employees whose security clearances have not yet been approved are confined to a so-called "clear area" out of reach of classified information. The clear area is on the first floor near the main entrance.

If the visitor is going to discuss classified information, a clearance authorizing it must have been submitted and approved beforehand.

If he is not cleared, his host must take all classi-

fied documents in his possession and place them in his special safe and lock it.

Those procedures are required even though visitors frequently are officials from such agencies as the Central Intelligence Agency, Air Force or State Department and hold top secret security clearances.

If the visitor leaves Rand for lunch, he surrenders his badge at the door and his departure is noted in the log. When he returns, he must pin the badge back on.

To check out a top secret document, a Rand staff member must have the appropriate security clearance and must justify his request at the top secret control room by supplying the number of the project on which he is working which attests to his "need to know."

He cannot check out top secret documents unrelated to his project. He must sign for his document on an IBM card which records the document's location.

He is responsible for the document until he returns it to the control room.

Researchers must follow strict procedures to safeguard documents in their possession. Guards periodically patrol the offices, note infractions and report them.

MORI/CDF

Too many violations and the offender is fired or demoted to work not involving classified information.

No one can leave this office unless all top secret documents are locked in his safe.

Those whose offices are on the first floor with windows facing the street are forbidden from leaving the room with classified information on their desks. Neither can they leave their safes open.

A top secret document cannot leave the office of the man who checked it out. He cannot give it to a colleague until he establishes that he has the proper security clearance and

fills out a transfer form noting it changed hands.

A copy of the form goes to the control room.

Except for a dozen researchers who are working on crash studies, top secret documents must be returned to the control room at night.

Those who retain possession keep the documents in a special tamper-proof file "safe" with a combination lock. Less sensitive documents may be kept by any researcher in his locked file cabinet.

Only the researcher and one other person knows the combination. It must be memorized. To write it down is a security violation.

The combination is changed every year.

Pentagon Safes

(According to Brodie, there are safes all over the Pentagon in which top secret documents are kept. He said there is no requirement for top secret documents to be returned to the control room at the end of the day.)

Every six months at Rand, the top secret control room makes a periodic check of outstanding documents to verify their location.

Removal of classified material from the premises is forbidden but Brodie admitted guards do not check the brief cases of employees when they leave.